United Nations A/C.5/58/3

General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
**Fifth Committee**
Agenda item 121
**Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005**

# Request for a subvention to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research resulting from the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the Institute on the work programme of the Institute for 2004

**Note by the Secretary-General**

*Summary*

In accordance with the provisions of the statute of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) (see General Assembly resolution 39/148 H of 17 December 1984, annex, art. VIII, para. 3) and the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, the General Assembly is requested to approve a subvention in the amount of $227,600 for UNIDIR for 2004 from the regular budget of the United Nations. A related provision in the amount of $473,700 to finance this subvention for the biennium 2004-2005 is included in the proposed programme budget for 2004-2005 under section 4, Disarmament.

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1. At its forty-first session, the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, in its capacity as the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), approved, for submission to the General Assembly, the Institute's programme of work and estimated resource requirements for 2004 (see A/58/259). The present report, reflecting the updated estimates that have since been provided by the Institute for review by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, is submitted to the Assembly in the context of its consideration of a subvention of $227,600 for 2004 from the regular budget of the United Nations.

2. In the report of the Director of UNIDIR on the activities of the Institute for the period from August 2002 to July 2003, it is stated that the welcome cost adjustment for the present biennium should be applied in future bienniums and that efforts to ensure that it is increased to an adequate level should be undertaken with sustained vigour (ibid., para. 6).

3. The proposed programme budget of the United Nations for the biennium 2004-2005, under section 4, Disarmament (A/58/6 (Sect. 4)), contains a provision of $473,700 representing the United Nations subvention to UNIDIR for the biennium. Notwithstanding the inclusion of the necessary provision in the programme budget, a formal request for a subvention of $227,600 for the year 2004 is submitted to the General Assembly, in keeping with established procedure.

4. Under section IV of General Assembly resolution 44/201 B of 21 December 1989, the Secretary-General is requested to report annually to the Assembly on the situation of the Institute. In this context, it is reported that the financial situation of UNIDIR is as follows:

(a) Funds available at the beginning of 2003 amounted to $1,275,822, and an additional $166,033 is required as an operating cash reserve;

(b) Total income for 2003 is estimated at $904,848, from the following sources: voluntary contributions and public donations ($617,248); interest income ($48,000); the subvention from the United Nations regular budget ($227,600); and miscellaneous income ($12,000). It is also estimated that of the total voluntary contributions and public donations, approximately 28.1 per cent will be used for special projects and 76.9 per cent for other purposes, including administrative costs. The details of the revised estimated contributions from voluntary sources for 2003 and 2004 are provided in annexes I and II;

(c) Total revised estimated expenditure for 2003 is $1,568,300, including a provision of $55,900 for programme support costs. Requirements for 2004 are estimated at $1,421,000, inclusive of $49,700 for programme support costs. The breakdown of revised estimated expenditures for 2003 and estimated resource requirements for 2004 is provided in annex III;

(d) Available funds at the beginning of 2004 are estimated at $612,370. In addition, an operating cash reserve estimated at $166,033 will be maintained for 2004.

5. **Should the General Assembly decide to approve the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of UNIDIR, no additional provision would be required under section 4 of the programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.**

# Annex I

## United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research: revised income from voluntary sources, 2003 and 2004

(United States dollars)

| *Donor* | *2003*[a] | *2004*[a] |
|---|---|---|
| A. Governmental contributions | | |
| Belgium | 10 774 | – |
| France | 300 000 | 300 000 |
| Germany | 2 500 | – |
| Greece | 7 800 | 7 800 |
| India | 10 000 | 10 000 |
| Israel | 10 000 | 10 000 |
| Luxembourg | 2 870 | 2 000 |
| New Zealand | 2 730 | – |
| Norway | 95 000 | 95 000 |
| Republic of Korea | 27 500 | 25 000 |
| Switzerland | 48 474 | 40 000 |
| United States of America | 5 000 | – |
| **Subtotal (A)** | **522 648** | **489 800** |
| B. Public donations | | |
| German F. E. Stiftung | 10 000 | – |
| Graduate Institute for International Studies[b] | 25 900 | – |
| Graduate Institute for International Studies[c] | 23 200 | – |
| Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (United States) | 25 000 | 25 000 |
| Landmine Action | 10 500 | – |
| **Subtotal (B)** | **94 600** | **25 000** |
| **Total voluntary contributions (A+B)** | **617 248** | **514 800** |

[a] These figures will be increased upon the confirmation of current funding proposals.

[b] This contribution comes from Finland through the Graduate Institute for International Studies.

[c] This contribution comes from France and Switzerland through the Graduate Institute for International Studies.

# Annex II

## United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research: estimated income from voluntary sources, 2003

| *Donor* | *Total contribution* |
|---|---|
| Belgium (received) | 10 774 |
| France (received) | 300 000 |
| Germany (pledged) | 2 500 |
| Greece (pledged) | 7 800 |
| India (received) | 10 000 |
| Israel (pledged) | 10 000 |
| Luxembourg (received) | 2 870 |
| New Zealand (received) | 2 730 |
| Norway (pledged) | 95 000 |
| Republic of Korea (pledged) | 27 500 |
| Switzerland (received) | 48 474 |
| United States of America (pledged) | 5 000 |
| German F. E. Stiftung (pledged) | 10 000 |
| Graduate Institute for International Studies (received) | 25 900 |
| Graduate Institute for International Studies (received) | 23 200 |
| Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (United States) (received) | 25 000 |
| Landmine Action (received) | 10 500 |
| **Total** | **617 248** |

# Annex III

## Estimated resource requirements, 2003 and 2004

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| | *Resource requirements* | *(a) 2003[a] estimate* | *(b) 2004[a] estimate* | *(c)=(b)-(a) Increase/ (decrease)* |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. | Direct programme and administrative costs | | | |
| | Salaries and related staff costs | 518.4 | 518.4 | – |
| | Temporary assistance for meetings | 1.0 | 1.0 | – |
| | Consultants' fees and travel | 60.0 | 20.0 | (40.0) |
| | Ad hoc expert groups | 30.0 | 44.2 | 14.2 |
| | Personal service contracts | 610.4 | 553.5 | (56.9) |
| | Official travel of staff | 90.0 | 50.0 | (40.0) |
| | Language training | 1.0 | 1.0 | – |
| | Other specialized training | 5.0 | 5.0 | – |
| | Other contractual services | 2.5 | 2.5 | – |
| | Hospitality | 4.0 | 4.0 | – |
| | Rental of conference room | 2.0 | 2.0 | – |
| | Rental of conference service equipment | 1.0 | 1.0 | – |
| | Maintenance of office automation equipment | 2.0 | 2.0 | – |
| | Paper for internal reproduction | 10.0 | 10.0 | – |
| | Subscriptions and standing orders | 2.5 | 2.5 | – |
| | Acquisition of office equipment | 5.0 | 5.0 | – |
| | **Subtotal** | **1 344.8** | **1 222.1** | **(122.7)** |
| B. | Programme support costs | | | |
| | (5 per cent of A, less United Nations subvention) | 55.9 | 49.7 | (6.2) |
| | **Total expenditure (A+B)** | **1 400.7** | **1 271.8** | **(128.9)** |
| C. | Operating cash reserve | | | |
| | (At least 15 per cent of A, less United Nations subvention) | 167.6 | 149.2 | (18.4) |
| | **Total (A+B+C)** | **1 568.3** | **1 421.0** | **(147.3)** |

[a] These figures may be increased upon the confirmation of current funding proposals.

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United Nations A/C.5/58/4

General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
**Fifth Committee**
Agenda item 124
**Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations**

## Letter dated 1 October 2003 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, for appropriate action by the Fifth Committee, a letter dated 26 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Niger to the United Nations, Ousmane Moutari, concerning a request for exemption for his country under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations (see annex).

(*Signed*) Julian R. **Hunte**

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## Annex

I am fully aware that requests for exemption under Article 19 of the Charter of the United Nations have to be considered by the Committee on Contributions, and that any such request has to be submitted by the Committee at least two weeks before its session, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/237 C of 23 December 1999.

Had it been possible to anticipate the situation, Niger would have appeared before the Committee on Contributions and provided the fullest possible supporting information, including information on economic aggregates, government revenues and expenditure, foreign exchange resources, indebtedness, difficulties in meeting domestic or international financial obligations and any other information that might support the claim that failure by Niger to make necessary payments had been attributable to conditions beyond its control.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, Niger has not been able to fully pay its contributions and, as a result, has lost the right to vote in the General Assembly since 1999. The causes of non-payment are, inter alia, the coup d'état of April 1999 and the military transition of one year to set up a democratic regime. After the free and democratic elections of December 1999, the new democratic regime was obliged to pay more than 12 months of salary in arrears for civil servants, pensions and scholarships.

This problem has now been partly solved and Niger has signed a financial agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Niger, although, one of the least developed countries, has, since becoming a member of the United Nations in 1960, always faithfully paid its contributions.

Despite the economic and social difficulties faced by Niger, my Government is actively working to obtain the necessary amount to restore its right to participate in the work of the United Nations. My Government hopes that an improvement in its situation would permit payments in the near future and is planning to submit a schedule for the payment of its contributions and arrears at a later date.

On instructions from my Government, I kindly request that, on exceptional basis and in light of the well-known, genuine difficulties faced by Niger, that consideration be given to granting Niger exemption under Article 19, until June 2004.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be issued as a document of the General Assembly and be considered under item 124, Scale of assessment for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations, during the main part of the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

(*Signed*) Ousmane **Moutari**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative